Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1625 - October 3, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1625 with a release date of Friday, October 3rd, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, says he plans to talk to kids from space. Also, DX has to wait as the sun remains silent, Afghanistan coming on the air soon, A-P-R-S can now help you locate ham radio newscasts and simplex may be better than repeaters. All this and a warning about a new e-mail scam aimed at the ham community on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1625 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: W5KWQ PLANS STUDENT SCHOOL CONTACTS

When Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, becomes the next civilian to fly into space later this month, he plans to talk to students live using amateur radio. Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, is here with the details:

--

The ham radio educational events with Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, on board the International Space Station are currently scheduled for Thursday, October 16th and Friday, October 17th. This, with middle school students from Challenger Learning Centers across the country.

First up will be students from Howard B. Owens Science Center's Challenger Center in Lanham, Maryland, Challenger Learning Center of Columbia in South Carolina, Verizon Challenger Learning Center in Tampa, Florida and the Brownsburg Challenger Learning Center in Indiana. They plan to ask Garriott questions about living and working in space of on October 16th.

Students from the Indianapolis Challenger Learning Center in Indiana, Challenger Learning Center at Paducah in Kentucky and Challenger Learning Center-St. Louis in Missouri will talk to W5KWQ on Friday, October 17th.

These events will be broadcast live on the national website. Also at that site are lesson plans in support of Richard Garriott's on orbit activities, archived webcasts, podcasts, and student's predictions of what will happen in the weightless environment of space. All are available on Challenger Center's national website at www.challenger.org

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I', Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, in Los Angeles.

--

Richard Garriortt, W5KWQ, is the son of NASA's Skylab Astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL. Owen Garriott was also the first ham radio operator to ever come on the air from space. (ARISS, SAREX, ANS)

**

RADIO SCIENCE: NASA SCIENTISTS CALL 2008 BLANKEST SUNSPOT YEAR OF THE SPACE AGE

The wait for better D-X conditions continues but it could be a longer wait than originally projected. Astronomers who count sunspots have announced that 2008 is now the "blankest year" of the Space Age. NASA Science News says that as of September 27, the sun had no visible sunspots on 200 days of this year.

To find a year with more blank suns, you have to go back to 1954. That's
 ,
three years before the launch of Sputnik. Its also the year that the sun's disk was devoid of sunspots 241 days.

And right now the prognosis for increased solar activity seems dim. David Hathaway is a Solar Physicist at the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center. He says that sunspot counts are at a 50-year low and that we are experiencing a deep minimum of the solar cycle. You can read more at http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/30sep_blankyear.htm?list6529 (NASA)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: AFGHANISTAN COMING ON THE AIR

Speaking of D-X, even as the war to rid Afghanistan of Taliban insurgents continues, ham radio is again taking to the air in that nation. And from October 5th to the 31st, KE6GFF will be operating from the capital city of Kabul as T6EE

Listen out for T6EE only on 14 dot 200 MHz +/- QRM as other frequencies are not permitted with his license. He does plan to take part in the upcoming CQ WWDX Contest in SSB on Oct 25th and 26th. QSLs via KE6GFI.

We will have more DX news at the end of this weeks report. (DXNS)

**

RADIO LAW: WISCONSIN CLUB WINS CONTESTED CALL

A Wisconsin radio club has been ruled as the new legal holder of a contested vanity call sign. This as the FCC issues an order on September 24th that rules the Falls Amateur Radio Club to be the rightful recipient of call sign W9CQ. Only one problem. It can't get the call. At least not yet. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, reports:

--

The Falls Amateur Radio Club and the QRQ CW and Contest Group had both claimed they were entitled to use the W9CQ call. This, after it was voluntarily surrendered by Robert C. Moldenhauer who had received the call after claiming to be a relative of the deceased previous holder. When he realized that he was not, he offered the call back to the FCC for it to reassign.

This past January 2nd, the Falls Amateur Radio Club filed an application requesting the W9CQ call. The FCC dismissed the application on the grounds that the call sign was not available, because it was less than two years since it had been surrendered by Moldenhauer. But wait a minute. Didn't Moldenhauer admit that he should not have gotten W9CQ the first place?

That's what the Falls club believed and filed a Petition for Reconsideration on January 23rd. In it, the club claimed that the call sign should have been made available to the vanity call sign system on January 2nd because Moldenhauer was not eligible for the call sign prior to the expiration of the two-year waiting period. It also claimed to be the only one who filed for that call on the January 2nd date.

But on May 23rd the QRQ CW and Contest Group submitted an application for the W9CQ call. The application stated that QRQ was acting with the written consent of a nephew of Paul Kent. The QRQ application was granted on June 10th.

But what about the petition for reconsideration filed by the Falls Amateur Radio Club? When it finally got around to making a decision, the FCC stated that they agreed with Falls Amateur Radio Club that call sign W9CQ should have been made available to the vanity call sign system on January 2nd because Robert C. Moldenhauer was not eligible for it in the first place. And it agreed that the Falls Amateur Radio Club was the only applicant for that call sign on January 2, 2008, and that the call should have been assigned to Falls Amateur Radio Club station.

Confused? Well it gets even better.

One would think that the FCC would simply yank the W9CQ call from the Q-R-Q club and give it to the Falls group since the FCC itself said that Falls should have gotten it in the first place. But that going with the simple and obvious is never the way of the Washington bureaucracy.

Instead of switching the call to the club that the FCC itself says deserves to have it, the agency said that it does not see how, at this time, it could set aside QRQ's application for W9CQ. This is because that grant is a final action.

Then it say wait a minute, there is a bureaucratic loophole. Its called Section 316(a)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934, and it permits the Commission to modify a station license if the action will promote the public interest, convenience, and necessity. And using it the FCC proposed to modify QRQ's Amateur Radio station license back to its old KC9MWH. This is the call sign it held prior to the grant of its application for W9CQ. The FCC stated that upon the modification of QRQ's license back to KC9MWH, they would then be able to assign call sign W9CQ to Falls Amateur Radio Club.

And so it is that the FCC has ordered that the petition filed by Falls Amateur Radio Club be granted to the
extent indicated" in the Order and their application is returned to pending status. I t was further ordered that it is proposed that the license of QRQ be modified" by returning the previous call sign of KC9MWH.

But here's the bureaucratic Catch 22. The FCC says that it will not issue a modification order until QRQ CW and Contest Group has received notice of the proposed action and has had an opportunity to file a protest to the modification. Such a protest has to be filed within thirty days of the release date of the 'Order on Reconsideration and Order Proposing Modification,' and has to contain sufficient evidence to show that the modification would not be in the public interest. The FCC further stated that if no protest is filed, that QRQ will have waived its right to protest the modification and will be deemed to have consented to the modification.

Confusing? Very much so, to which Ill add to please not ask me to explain any of this. I am not a communications lawyer nor do I play one on T.V. In fact I'm just Don Csrlson, KQ6FM, in Reno, reporting the facts for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

Obviously we won't know if QRQ files a protest until the FCC says its received one or QRQ offers a public statement. And if they do protest, it could also mean that this matter could drag on for months or years to come. And as of this writing, the FCC database shows that the W9CQ call is still in the hands of the QRQ CW And Contest Group of Vincennes, Indiana. (FCC, ARRL, others)

**

RESCUE RADIO: CANADIAN HAMS TRACK HURRICANE KYLE

Hams in Eastern Canada were activated as the latest tropical event of the season made it was North before making landfall in New Brunswick Nova Scotia on Sunday, September 28th. Canadian amateur radio operators provided information on Hurricane Kyle to the both the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami as well as having it passed to the Canadian Hurricane Center in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

Kyle's impact on Nova Scotia was blunted by the cold waters of the north Atlantic Ocean. None the less wind gusts of 124 kilometers per hour were recorded at Baccaro Point in Nova Scotia's Shelburne County. A Canadian coast guard ship reported wind gusts up to 154 kilometres per hour off the Shelburne coast. The winds knocked down a construction site in Shelburne and caused thousands to lose power. Nova Scotia Power said that at Kyle's height, winds knocked out power to more than 40,000 customers across the province, mostly in the southwestern part.

Most of the ham radio hurricane tracking reports were made through the Voice Over Internet Protocol Hurricane Net network which uses interlinked IRLP and Echolink nodes. These are connected to WX4NHC, which is the Amateur Radio station at the National Hurricane Center in Miami. In addition, there were Amateur radio stations from Australia and Germany assisting in net activities. (RAC)

**

BREAK 1

 From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline,

heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W9BBK repeater serving Bolingbrook, Illinois.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HURRICANE KYLE BRUSHES US COASTLINE

Before hitting the Nova Scotia coastline, Hurricane Kyle brushed its way across Eastern New England region. Heavy rain associated with the storm caused some flooding in the region.

According to the ARRL, the amateur radio station at the National Weather Service in Taunton, Massachusetts was activated for the weather event. Its call is WX1BOX, and it coordinated SKYWARN operations Friday afternoon through Sunday.

The ARRL District Emergency Coordinator for Maine District 3 is Phil Roberts, K1PAR. He activated several nets in his on Saturday night with all ARES members in the affected counties were on standby. In Southwestern Maine, ARES members were also on standby for possible activation by their respective served agencies. Maine Section Emergency Coordinator, Bryce Rumery, K1GAX, provided reports all day Sunday to ARRL Headquarters before the nets were advised to stand down. (ARRL)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: THE 2008 USFAR MARATHON AND HAM RADIO

Ham radio was a part of the action at a recent Ohio marathon. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is here with the details:

--

A team of 35 radio amateur operators from organizations from around the Dayton, Ohio area provided critical communications for the recent running of the United States Air Force Marathon. Hams operating under the direction of Greene County Amateur Radio Emergency Service provided an information channel between the hydration stations, medical stations, and the United States Air Force Marathon staff.

For the twelfth year, this marathon was held at Wright Patterson Air force Base . Most of the radio systems were deployed late on Friday, September 19th or very early on event day of September the 20th. The primary repeater normally used for the event is owned by the Upper Valley Amateur Radio Club of Fairborn Ohio. Due to the remnants of Hurricane Ike, it did not did not have commercial power and battery backup ran out on earlier in the week. To make it available for the marathon, the Fairborn group was able to obtain a generator to keep the machine in operation for the day. Over 500 routine and emergency messages were passed during the event.

For the amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the studio in Los Angeles.

--

This years United States Air Force Marathon supported over 7500 military and civilian runners from around the world. Over 1500 volunteers including 35 hams assisted with the event. (KF4KWW, WS8B)

**

RADIO SCAM ALEET: E-MAIL FROM AMEX TO HAMS A PURPORTED PHONY

A possible new fraud scheme targeting radio amateurs over the Internet This, according to Robert Greenstein, AA6A, who reports via QRZ.com that the scam has apparently been directed to ham radio callsign sign e-mail addresses.

Greenstein says that the electronic solicitation purportedly looks like an e-mail from American Express. Specifically from "AMEX SERVICES" with a Subject Line: reading: "AMEX UPDATE". The messages seeks to have the recipient respond by sending back a font and rear copy of both their driver's license and American Express card.

Greenstein's post indicates that the message originates from the aaron@digital-glass.com and has an I P address of 82.165.179.193.

More savvy e-mail users will readily see that the message is a bogus attempt to obtain personal and account information.

The bottom line to this. If you get any e-mail asking for your personal information -- no matter whom its from -- do not ever respond. Delete it and in doing so you protect your identity and your life savings. (AA6A via QRZ.com)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FOLLOW-UP ON ALLEGED UNLICENSED STATION OPERATOR INCARCERATED IN FLORIDA

A follow-up to last weeks story about the arrest of an alleged unlicensed radio station in Florida. You may remember that authorities in Wilton Manors, Florida announced the arrest 23-year-old Constantinos Rigalos. This, for apparently operating an illegal FM radio station which is a third-degree felony in Florida. But now we learn that's not where the story ends.

In addition to local law enforcement action, word that the FCC appears to have been involved in the bust. In a September 10th letter to Rigalos, the regulatory agency says that its Miami Office received information that an unlicensed broadcast radio station on 103.9 MHz. One that was allegedly operating in the Wilton Manors area. Also, that's its agents traced the signal to Rigalos residence in Wilton Manors.

The FCC also says that it has information that indicates Rigalos was one of the operators of this station. Its letter warns him that his operation is illegal and must cease at once. If not, on a federal level the penalties he could face include seizure of the radio station equipment, monetary

fines, and criminal sanctions including imprisonment. This is in addition to the Florida state prosecution that is already underway. (CGC, FCC)

**

RADIO LAW: THE FCC SAYS THAT TWO ARE REALLY ONE

Ten applications for noncom educational FMs in various states have been dismissed by the FCC. This, in a case involving two separate but related organizations in Ohio.

Spirit Communications and The Helpline each filed 10 applications in last fall's noncom filing window. The FCC then received an anonymous petition alleging that Helpline had been created by Spirit to deliberately circumvent a cap of 10 applications.

Helpline told the FCC that the two organizations do not have common directors and in fact the groups have had separate boards and officers since just prior to their application filings. But the FCC found that Spirit's de facto control of Helpline continued, so the organizations could
not apply for 10 each.

Among other things the FCC found that the new Helpline board consists of two Spirit employees and their spouses, and that Helpline has no employees of its own. Rather, it relies on Spirit employees to "volunteer" to perform basic functions. Based on this, the FCC's Audio Division of the Media Bureau now has ruled that Helpline's applications should still be attributed to Spirit and the maximum of 10 applications does prevail. (RW)

**

RADIO LAW: TEXTING OUT AND GPS IN UNDER CA LAWS

California Governor Schwarzenegger has signed two bills into law that affect the installation or operation of electronic communications devices in vehicles. The first one signed on September 25th makes California the latest state that bans drivers from text messaging while behind the wheel.

The ban on texting while driving, backed by fines starting at $20 per offense, will come into force on January 1st 2009. It closes a loophole in a law that requires the use of hands-free devices while driving and talking on a cellular phone. That law that took effect this past July but failed to include text messaging.

Meantime, the California Governor has now signed into law a bill that was put forth earlier this year that will again legalize windshield mounting of GPS devices. Also beginning January 1, 2009, California drivers will be able to suction cup their GPS units but there are some restrictions. The only places legal will be in the lower 7-inch corner farthest away from the driver or in the lower 5-inch corner closest to the driver. The use of suction cup on-glass mounting had earlier been banned due to safety concerns but a loud out cry from the public seems to have brought them back. (K6LCS and other published reports)

**

ON THE NET: COMCAST TO LIMIT RESIDENTIAL INTERNET BANDWIDTH

Internet provider Comcast has announced that it plans to place limits on the amount of broadband usage it will allow its residential customers. Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF reports:

--

Comcast say that the 250 gigabytes is about 100 times the typical home usage. It claims that the average residential customer uses only two to three gigabytes a month. It also says that under one percent of customers exceed the 250 gigabyte level in a given 30 day period, but that small number can slow the system down as they download a large number of huge media files.

Under the Comcast plan, residential subscribers who exceed the 250 gigabyte limit would risk having their service terminated for up to a year. Users who exceed that amount will not have their access switched off immediately, nor will they be charged for excessive use. Instead, they would likely be contacted by Comcast and officially notified of the cap. If they exceed the limit a second time or simply refuse to comply, then service termination could result.

In recent months a number of Internet Service Providers have considered clamping down on their most active subscribers. Mainly those involved in peer to peer media file exchange services. The ISP's say that the limits are needed to insure fair access to the network for who need to reach the Internet.

--

Reports are that several bloggers who seem to indicate that they are involved in file sharing may challenge Comcast on the data transfer in court. (Published reports)

**

HAM RADIO BUSINESS: EMCOMM OPS FROM CREATIVE SERVICES SOFTWARE

Creative Services Software has announced the release of EmComm Ops, which the company describes as a new software solution for packet radio operations.

Creative says that the software is designed primarily for emergency radio communications. It says that it assists amateur, commercial and MARS radio operators to connect to, access, integrate and operate packet radio stations with a Windows PC or laptop from a fixed station or in the field.

EmComm Ops is the first addition to Creative Services Software recently rebranded Radio Operations Center product line. A free, 30-day trial of EmComm Ops is available now on the CSS Website. That U-R-L in cyberspace at www.cssincorp,com   (Crerative Services release)

**

HAM RADIO BUSINESS: DX ENGINEERING ACQUIRES COMTEL SYSTEMS

Consolidation in the ham radio industry. This with word that Ohio-based DX Engineering has acquired of Comtek Systems.

James R. Miller, K4SQR, principal of Comtek Systems explained that DX Engineering and Comtek have complementary product lines and the ability to union created by combining the two companies will bring many benefits to the Amateur Radio fraternity.

The acquisition will take place immediately, with the transfer of Comtek's manufacturing and customer service operations to DX Engineering's Akron, Ohio facility. For more information about DX Engineering and Comtek Systems, please visit www.dxengineering.com and ww.comteksystems.com, on the World Wide Web. (DX Engineering release)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

WITH NEWSLINE: SOME WORDS OF THANKS

Ladies and gentlemen, with some thank-you's to those who support these newscasts, here's Amateur Radio Newsline's Support Fund Administrator, Andy Jarema, N6TCQ

--

Continuing with our thank-yous, last year in the months of June through September we heard from John Hays, N6JWH of Oak Hills, CA with a contribution in memory of Frank Spencer, KA6BUY.

The Muncie, IN Area ARC, WB9HXG who sent their contribution as a result of the sale of donated gear from the family of Silent Key David Doirion, WA1MKE/9 their long-time club secretary.

Lou Dartanner, N6ZKJ of Santa Barbara and the Southern Orange Amateur Radio Association of Mission Viejo.

Via PayPal we had contributors from IL including Joan Friedman, KC9HXY in Urbana; Marilyn Gardner in Evanston; Gary Friendlander, WD9HDM in Buffalo Grove; One "quote unit of love and respect" from Edmund Burckart, N9VTU in Glenview; Mark Burlingame, KB9TVD in Northlake and David Hewitt In Lake Forest .

Elsewhere James Drenthe, KC8SSK of Galesburg, MI; Scott Saunders in Salt Lake City, Utah; Bryan Charles Bailey in Fort Worth, Texas and Mark Moore in Sunland, CA.

Please do your part to help keep these weekly newscasts stay on the air. We've made it easy for you through PayPal on our website, arnewsline.org, or at the address you'll hear at the end of this broadcast.

Till next time, I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

--

Andy will be back with us in the near future with more than-yous to those who have contributed to the support fund. (Newsline Support Fund)

**

HAM RADIO ON THE WEB: QST BACK ISSUES ON-LINE FOR ARRL MEMBERS

Back issues of QST Magazine from December 1915 to December 2004 are now available online as a free download for ARRL members. This new benefit is provided by the ARRL Technical Information Service and provides copies of each magazine in Adobe Portable Document File format.

ARRL members can now access the online QST magazine archive by logging into their account and then going to www.arrl.org/members-only/qqnsearch.html. If you are not an ARRL member you can find out how to join at t www.arrl.org/join ((ARRL)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: W0ODY TO RECEIVE UNIVERSITY AWARD

A ham radio operator is among two members of the Evangel University staff honored October 10th during Evangel University's homecoming celebration. Librarian Woodvall Moore, W0ODY and Marilyn Campbell who is an administrative assistant in the Business and Economics Department, will both receive a Distinguished Service Award.

Known as "Woodie" to friends, Moore has been a fixture in Evangel's library since 1976. He earned a bachelor of science from Southern Bible College and a master of library science from the University of Kentucky. Starting as reference librarian, he was promoted to director within one year. His current title, director of library and media services, reflects the changes in his role that have taken place over the years. He is also a past president of the Association of Christian Librarians.

Evangel University is a private Christian university associated with the Assemblies of God church. (Press release)

**

RADIO TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT: THE NEWS AND APRS

Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, reports that he has created a new APRS information website. One that provides a look at who is transmitting ham radio newscasts like this one.

The new web page is designed to help those Newsline, RAIN and ARRL audio volunteers to get their APRS objects on the air. The concept requires the cooperation and support of listeners to these reports.

According to Bob, while a report like this one is on the air, an APRS operator in that area should be putting out on an approved APRS frequency as a live object at the time of the event. That object would shows up on the front panel of every APRS mobile displaying the frequency to listen to, the direction and distance to the repeater and the topic being transmitted.

Bobs new APRS news and information web page includes Amateur Radio Newsline, the Rain Report and the ARRL Audio News. You can find it on line at www.aprs.org/On-Air-Beacons.html.   (WB4APR)

**

WORLDBEAT - RUSSIA: VOA MAKES MAJOR CHANGES TO RUSSIAN PROGRAM DELIVERY

The Voice of America announced that it has eliminated radio broadcasts in Hindi, Bosnian, Serbian, and Macedonian as of September 30th. The broadcaster has also discontinued its 30-minute Russian weekly television program and will deliver text, audio, and video content to Russia's fast-growing Internet market.

The Voice of America says that it will accessible through digital devices. These include mobile Internet devices, cell phones that receive text and multi-media messages, and MP3 players.

According to a report from the British Broadcasting Company, the change in the Voice of America's Russian's program delivery reflects the crackdown on independent media and freedom of speech in Russia. The V-O-A's Russian radio broadcasts ended in July 2008. The BCC notes that Russian shortwave radio listenership also has continued to decline with fewer than two per cent of Russians using this medium to receive broadcasts. (BBC)

**

DX

In D-X, Word that DJ1OJ, will spend the winter on Teneriffa, in the Canary Islands until the end of March 2009. He will be active as EA8OM mainly using CW and RTTY. QSL via bureau to his home call or via Logbook to the World.

And F4EGS, is operating portable EY8 in the Tajikistan capital city of Dushanbe.   He will be there through November 26th and is on the air using SSB, C-W, RTTY and PSK on 40 through 10 meters. QSL direct or via bureau to his home call.

S79TF will be the callsign of DJ6TF, who is going to spend his vacation time through October 14th on La Digue Island. His main emphasis is the 30 meter band and RTTY operation. That said, you can also find him working

the other modes mostly at the lower band edges with his FT-890 and a vertical antenna. QSLs via DJ6TF either direct or via bureau.

Lastly, F5TLN will be in the Lebanon until February of 2009. He will work mostly in SSB but also some CW on all High Frequency bands. He says that he will confirm the QSL cards after his return home and points out that bureau QSL's will take some time. The bottom line on this one is to please be patient on this one.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: THINK SIMPLEX

And finally this week, a rhetoric question. Can a ham have more fun on FM if he doesn't use a repeater? Jim Linton, VK3PC, of the WIA News thinks that you can:

--

The use of simplex operation is not new and in fact it was a way of life before voice repeaters arrived many decades ago.

If you find yourself on the shores of Australia's large inland sea, Lake Eyre, or someone else remote, a call on simplex FM can surprisingly achieve results. In fact a number of travelling radio amateurs do sit on the national calling frequency of and that should be encouraged. Simplex also takes away some of the hassles with repeater operation such as what repeater to use and those CTCSS access tones.

The Simplex Preservation Society is a club in the United States that is an alternative to what it calls the traditional repeater-centric amateur radio groups. It's not suggesting anyone gives up repeater use, but its members do monitor
simplex, make regular contacts that way and maintain a capability to be able to operate independently of repeaters. SPS members maintain, or improve, their VHF stations to ensure they can effectively communicate within their city limits.

Do you regularly evaluate your simplex capabilities or perhaps have an over-reliance on repeaters? There are plenty of regular repeater nets but not as many simplex nets. As a suggestion a net controller could put everyone to the test by QSY'ing to simplex to see just how many can still maintain contact.

The Simplex Preservation Society believes that being simplex-capable will also be vital in times of natural disasters or other emergencies.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Linton VK3PC

--

More about the Simplex Preservation Society is on-line at www.73sps.com (WIA News)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, in Mississippi saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) is Copyright 2008. All rights reserved.